



THE GREEN SCENE

Department of Parks and Recreation Launches Campaign Urging People to “Play for Life!” at Los Angeles County Parks

Our Department launched its PLAY FOR LIFE! Public Information Campaign at a February Board of Supervisors meeting where Supervisor Yvonne Burke presented the Department with a proclamation for the Play for Life! campaign.

The campaign’s message will encourage youth, teens, families, seniors and everyone in between to be active, be healthy and to utilize one of the many Los Angeles County Parks facilities.

Los Angeles County residents will soon see and hear catchy phrases with double meanings, but have distinct, collaborative messages. “Make a Splash!” tells people to make a splash, and what better way to do so than at one of Los Angeles County’s 28 public swimming pools. “Stop and Smell the Flowers!” encourages the public to nurture their well being by slowing down and – literally – smelling the flowers at one of Los Angeles County’s 4 Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. “Go Fore It!” is a play on words, applicable for anyone to go for health, go for fitness or go for a round of golf at one of Los Angeles County’s 19 golf courses, comprising the largest municipal golf course system in the Country. These phrases are just a few of the messages of the Play for Life! campaign.

The Play for Life! campaign’s core message is to be healthy, to reduce stress, to live well and to “Play for Life!” in whatever way that means to the individual person. Just as important, the campaign highlights the more than 140 beautiful parks and facilities within Los Angeles

County, and shows that everything one needs to do to Play for Life!, they can do right here with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.



CONTENTS

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE	2
PARK SUMMIT	2
EMPLOYEE SYMPOSIUM	3
WHAT’S NEW IN HUMAN RESOURCES	4

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

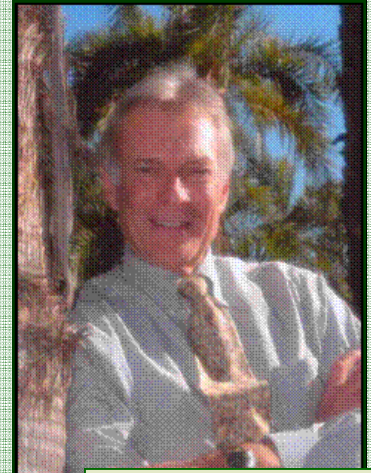
As we move into the third month of 2008, it's not too soon to ask yourself how well you are doing in keeping your New Year's resolutions. As a Department, we have goals to carry out our mission of creating quality recreational facilities and opportunities through healthy parks and with excellent customer service.

We recently launched the Department's Public Information Campaign that encourages all of us to be healthy, be active and play for life. Because whether someone wants to play a sport, learn something new or just relax, our department has every kind of facility and program that will enable them to do so.

The "Play for Life!" campaign will make sure that the families, youth, seniors and the general public knows as well through strategically placed promotions in publications, online, radio, television and outdoor media.

As part of the campaign, you will be receiving a button each month with a fun phrase to showcase just what our department has to offer. You should have already received the "Play for Life!" button, the umbrella phrase under which all other phrases fall. I hope you will wear each button throughout each month in which it is released to show your pride and to promote our great facilities. Just as important are employees like you who make sure the facilities are operational and programs are carried out with expertise.

Let's Play for Life!



Russ Guiney, Director

PARK SUMMIT

Representatives from 88 cities attended the sixth annual County of Los Angeles Parks Summit to focus on sustainability, the environment and how to make a positive difference as a collective group.

This year's Parks Summit, held at the beautiful Los Angeles County Arboretum, was appropriately titled "Moving Toward Sustainability and Health". Key note speaker, Walker Wells, AICP – Program Director for Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Communities Program for Global Green USA -- discussed ways in which individuals and organizations could practice conservation and sustainability for future generations. Mr. Wells also discussed the challenge of reprogramming societal values in order to emphasize the importance of sustainable urban areas.

The Directors' Roundtable session discussed how the different city and county park and recreation departments could work as a group to support certain issues. This year the goal is to support the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. The bill of rights encourages opportunities for youth to experience a list of ten outdoor activities by the time they reach the age of 14, including:

- Discover California's Past
- Splash in the water
- Play in a safe place
- Camp under the stars
- Explore nature
- Learn to swim
- Play on a team
- Follow a trail
- Catch a fish
- Celebrate their heritage



EMPLOYEE SYMPOSIUM 2008



Parks and Recreation employees got up out of their chairs, participated in healthy activities and learned best practices for leading healthier lives at the 2008 Employee Symposium. Employees were encouraged to set examples for park patrons and constituents by being active and healthy. Keynote speaker Dr. Antronette Yancey shared important facts about healthy lifestyles and shared tips on how to begin living healthy immediately. Many of the hundreds of employees in the audience stood up and participated in the African Dance moves Dr. Yancey demonstrated.

From a walking tour of the arboretum and quick and healthy snacks tips to yoga moves and golf lessons, everyone had a variety of health-focused workshops to choose from. Even the Employee Recreation Council did their part by selling a healthy lunch!



WHAT'S NEW IN HUMAN RESOURCES?

Meet Your Employee Relations Representatives Now as Close as Your Agency Office

To serve you better, three Employee Relations Representatives (ER) Representatives are now assigned to the North, East, Regional and South offices. Each is working in their assigned Agency Office as well as working from Headquarters. The emphasis is in customer service, interpretation and administration of labor contracts and HR policies, employment rights, consultation on employee relations matters, dispute resolution and coordination of recurrent hiring.

Employees at these locations should make these individuals their first point of contact:

- North Office and regional operations: Ross Diaz (213)738-4716
- South Office and regional operations: Olivia Alexander (213)738-4734
- East Office and regional operations and department labor relations head: Tiffany Countryman, Departmental Civil Service Representative, (213)738-4733.



From Left to Right: Tiffany Countryman, Olivia Alexander, Brenda Jones, Ross Diaz

All three Employee Relations Representatives report to Brenda Jones, our Employee Relations Manager (213) 639-6725; Brenda also serves as the ER resource for Administration, Planning and Development and the Executive Office. David Waage, Departmental Human Resources Manager, can be reached at (213)738-2991 or by email at dwaage@parks.lacounty.gov.

Department Begins Use of Electronic Timecards

Employees in the Department's Administration Building have begun using the new Electronic Timecard System after extensive training by Patrice Sanders in the Human Resources division. The electronic system will be rolled out, one agency at a time, to the North Agency in March, the East Agency in April; Regional Facilities in May; and the South Agency in June.

To ensure that everything goes smoothly, each Agency will phase-in the new system for a couple of time periods by using "parallel runs" in which employees use two methods to submit their time: on a paper timecard *and* the electronic timecard.

The electronic system has many benefits, including allowing you to view and certify your own timecard prior to final supervisory approval; simplifying your ability to get more information about your own payroll data including schedules, benefit balances, and current hours and transactions; reducing the worksite timekeepers' paperwork therefore improving timecard accuracy.

All employees will be required to attend an "Orientation to Our New Electronic Timekeeping" training session and a hands-on practice workshop. Be sure to look out for the notices on these training sessions!



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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"